[19th February 1959

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, I should like to invite your attention to one fact. A large number of questions remain yet to be answered, though notice was given a long time ago. We should like to know what action has been taken to expedite answer to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are sending reminders after reminders to the departments concerned, but nothing happens. We are going on pressing them, but we have not succeeded in getting answers to questions in time yet.

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, I think there is a rule that if any question is pending for one month without the answer being received, then it will be included in the list, whether or not the answer is ready. That rule is followed in the other House.

(2) ABSENCE OF MINISTERS FROM THE HOUSE.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I crave your indulgence? The other day I was mentioning, as was done by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, that, when the session had already been announced, it was always incumbent upon the Ministers to be present in the House during the session. Of course, if there is any important work, they may go. But their tendency seems to be to accept even ordinary appointments during the session and be absent from the House. That makes the Opposition reasonable in objecting to the absence of our Ministers from this House. Of course, on any important official work they may be absent. But what I feel is that ordinary functions could easily be avoided, particularly in view of the fact that the session of the Council had been announced as early as a month back. They should decide what is more important. Of course, I know, Mr. Chairman, your difficulty in the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not my difficulty. It is the difficulty of the Hon. Ministers. It is not open to us to question that. I am not taking sides with Ministers. It is not possible for all the Ministers to be always present here.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : I am not talking of to-day only. Should they not be present, as far as possible, especially when they know that the House would be in session?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member may go to any Legislature in the world, anywhere; he will not find all the Ministers present there always.

(Sri Mohamed Raza Khan rose.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No further questions on that will be allowed.

(3) SITTING ON THE 20TH FEBRUARY 1959.

* SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : Sir, may I know whether we would be sitting tomorrow also and, if so, when? I understand that the Hon. Minister has got a function tomorrow at 5 p.m.